

Letter from Tilton C. Reynolds to Juliana Reynolds, January 1863

Camp Pitcher

Near Falmouth Virginia

January 1863

Dear Mother,

Only a few days have passed since I wrote to you but as I have leisure I might as well write again. If nothing has happened worthy of note my last letter to you was in answer to the one containing the news which has ever since caused me to feel verry badly. I hardly knew what I was doing for a day or two after I got it and it is as much as a bargain that I do now. I was working on a copy of a monthly report when I got the letters and I could do nothing at them that day or the next day. I lay awake at night thinking of it and the next night when I did get to Sleep I dreamed of it. I know it is useless to fret over it but I can not help it. I thought a great deal of Clara and I am afraid this will bring trouble on her as well as all the rest of us for she is So young that I fear she does not realize what she is doing. It may though be all for the best but time alone can tell that.

We have verry nice weather here for the time of year but I expect when it does commence to be bad that it will be bad indeed. I expected we would have moved from this before now but we still seem to be on the same old ground. The news in the papers this day or two is quite encouraging if true. I think Rosencranz [Rosecrans] is one of our best Generals. He has always had good luck when he has fought. There was no mail came in to day so I suppose there will be a big one tomorrow and then I will be expecting a letter from home. I got one from Uncle Orlando to day I got your last which I will answer soon also one from

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DR. I got five letters in the one mail and all of one date but one. The Col has appointed a new Adj't to act until Lieut Neal comes back. He has been absent recruiting for some time. The one that detailed me to Col got mad at and sent him to his Company. He was a fine clever fellow. This one does not know much but still we get along first rate. I think Neal will be back in a few days. He is a nice man and a good officer. Him and I can get along finely I think.

I spent the evening of the 6th with Doctor and Nancy they have a verry comfortable house and are getting along finely though Nancy has not been verry well for a day or two. I dont recollect whether I told you about having a piece of [Mince?] pie on New Years or not. If I did tell you I forget it and I will tell you again. Well I had a couple of pieces. Nancy baked them. I thought it was the best mince pie ever I did eat. I also had some fried cakes which were excellent. Sammy came over in the evening from the 62nd and we had a verry pleasant time. The Regt is now out on Battalion drill. I think it is rather bad to drill these old Regiments so this time of year but old Gen [Birney?] thinks that it would please the men to well to lay in camp all the time so he keeps them drilling 4 or 5 hours per day. Nancy talks of going home before long whether we get paid or not. I think the Government is getting pretty hard up when it cant pay the troops once in 6 or 8 months. The men are all getting dissatisfied and swear they wont fight no more that the union is of no account that Niggers is what we are fighting for and they say that they did not come out for that.

The Col is getting as strict as ever. He has issued an order that all men missing Drill will have a month pay taken off their wages. This is pretty strict I tell you to take pay from a poor Soldier whose [parents?] at home are suffering for the money. But there is a better day a coming. He will not always have the power to use men as he pleases. There was a while that he behaved like a gentleman but it was only assumed it is not his nature to be a gentleman far from it he is a heartless wretch. This is speaking pretty plain but you I suppose will not read it to every body so that he should ever get to hear it for he has always treated me middling well with the exception of one or two circumstances. Uncle John is well he is still at the Hospital. There is two cases of Sickness there now that are

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pretty bad and take a good deal of tending but there is enough there so that it will not be hard on any of them to wait on them. They have very comfortable quarters now having a large Hospital tent with a Heater in it.

Joe Green is getting better than he was. He was pretty poorly when he came back to the Regt. I think he will never be able to do hard duty again. The rest of the Reynoldsville boys are in good health. I suppose Montgomery has the Post Office now as two letters that came for our Co. yesterday had verry different writing on than. he ones mailed by you one of them I took notice was not Dated at all just merely had Reynoldsville wrote on it. When the mail used to come in I always watched for your writing on the Envelopes. I could tell it as far as I could see it. Then if I did get no letter I knew you was still living any how. You have never told me whether you intend getting a girl or not. Now I want you to have one to do all the work and let Maggie go to School and learn all she can. She is a good girl and will be a comfort to you. Tell her I will write her a letter in a few days. How I would like to see you all once more. Since I got the last letters from home I am more home sick than ever I was before. If I had half a chance I would take a French and stay a few weeks. I believe the reason they dont pay the Army is they are afraid they will all desert. The Zouaves in our Brigade say they will half of them desert as soon as they get their pay and they have only been out about 4 months or a [little? day?]. When new troops feel like leaving the service I wonder what can be expected of old ones. I will have to hurry and finish this or it will not go out this evening. Since I have got this far though I would like to fill the sheet. The Bugle has just blowed for dress parade so I suppose it is about 5=Oclock. The Regt has not been in from Drill more than 5 minutes. The fellows had not more than got their cartridge boxes off until they have to slap them on and get out for parade. They do a good deal of swearing about it too. I have verry easy times mow only one report to make out a day. The Sergt Major makes all the details for guard and such things. In Camp Jameson I used to have that to do. I got some envelopes to day from a pedlar. All I am any ways scarce off is stamps. They are so scarce in Camp that if one has them he cant help

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but give some away or sell them for if they find out he has them he has no peace while they last. The next ones I get I will try and not let any one have I have got them.

We have Bandonly one Brass in our Brigade now. The forces lost their Band over the river. The time of the fight they did not get over in time and the Rebels took them. Well I will quit this for I am thinking the mail will soon go out. Give my love to pap and Arthur, Clara and kind little Maggie and all the rest and write as soon and as often as you can for I am always anxious to hear from home. And now dear mother I will bid you good By and I shall ever remain your most affectionate and loving son.

Tilton Reynolds

[P.S.] To My Mother